



Steps to University Study

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Steps to University Study

- Which course is the right one?
- Which university is the right one?
- Pathways to University
- University Admission (UAC, EAS, Unistep, Preparation courses)
- Disability Services
- Rules for Survival
- Important Dates

What course?

- Try to develop an understanding of course requirements & approaches to Teaching & Learning. Consider things such as Labs, Clinical and Field Placements, Field Trips as well as lectures/tutorials, attendance etc.
- Consider the Inherent Requirements of the course.
- Technology competence that may be required to begin & complete course
- Requirements of Registration Boards etc for professional qualifications once degree is finished - could you meet their criteria?

What course (cont)?

- Talk to academics (e.g. Open Days, etc) - about courses, teaching methods. Ask if they can meet your needs (e.g. Electronic texts, course materials, lecture recordings, etc.)
- Contact Disability Service regarding needs (AT, course materials, exam adjustments, orientation, etc.) well in advance. Try to give sufficient lead time for obtaining alternative format materials (e.g. Braille/Scanning 6 to 8 weeks)
- Consider if the course can be completed/partially completed online?
- Do you have the pre-requisites for the course?

Before Enrolment:

- DON'T OVER-ENROL! Be aware that Tertiary Study involves far more than just face-to-face time. Good idea to multiply by 3 e.g. 10 hours of lectures & tutorials $\times 3 = 30$, + 10 F2F = 40 hours.
- Disabilities may be inherently more time-consuming, so need to factor that in as well.
- Know (and be as skilled as possible in) your preferred method of access (e.g. JAWS, Zoomtext, CCTV, etc.)

Which University?

- Each Uni has its own
 - Entry programs
 - Scholarships
 - Enrolment procedures
 - Web pages (& their varying formats!)
 - Financial assistance
 - Disability Services (DS)
 - Assistive Technology (AT)
 - & the list goes on

Which Uni (cont)

- Be aware of available resources at your chosen university (e.g. Disability Unit, Web-based course material, Library resources, etc.)
- Obtain information on admission, enrolment, course information, scholarships, accommodation, etc in an appropriate format (mostly available on web in accessible formats or contact admissions for other formats)

Pathways to University

- HSC & ATAR
- VET, ADF, Private College
- Transfer options

University Admission

- Universities Admissions Centre
- Educational Access Scheme (EAS)
- The University Access Guide
- Financial (HECS, Scholarships, university fees, Centrelink benefits, etc.)

When to Disclose?

- Disability access
- Personal requirements
- Transportation
- Know your rights.
 - The Disability Discrimination Act (1992).
 - Privacy and Confidentiality Acts.
 - Occupational Health and Safety Acts.

For further information:

www.uws.edu.au/ndco/disclosure

Disability Services

It is important to note that each University's Service will differ in operational procedures, however the role remains to:

- Provide pre-enrolment counselling
- Identify and evaluate the reasonable adjustments required for students with disabilities
- Provide disability education, training and awareness for academic and administration staff
- Develop & distribute Academic Integration Plans
- Provide alternative format for written material

Disability Services (cont)

- Negotiate with academic, administrative and school staff
- Provide and train students in the use of specialised equipment and assistive technology
- Booking and funding of sign interpreters
- Referral and liaison with other specialist agencies.
- Employ, train and provide Educational Support Staff (note takers, reader etc.)
- Student Advocacy.

Services available:

- Academic Note takers
- Sign Interpreters
- Scribes, Readers, Practical Assistants
- Transcription
- Equipment Loan
- Access rooms
- Alternative assessment options
- Alternative Exam Arrangements for in-class tests and final exams
- Training and access to assistive technologies.
- Advocacy and support.

Documentation

Each university will have its own requirements and procedures regarding acceptable medical documentation. For example at UWS we require documentation to:

- Be no older than 2 years.
- Be from the primary treating practitioner.
- State the condition/s and impact on academic studies.
- Where possible, list any academic strategies that may assist you in this environment.
- Documentation must be on letterhead, or be recorded on the UWS Medical Evidence Form

Rules for Survival

SWD must have the following skills in order to 'survive' university.

- Independence - SWD's should know themselves & their disability
- Communication/listening skills
 - written
 - oral
 - aural
- Technology skills, even if it is just typing, web & email
- The hunger to make it happen, whatever that may take
- Sheer determination to reach the goal

Important Dates

- September - applications
- January - Semester 1 - Register with disability unit
- June - Semester 1 exams
- August - Semester 2 - Reregister with disability unit (some universities)
- November - Semester 2 exams
- December - Summer Session